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Talking Points for the DDCI  
(31 August 1983)

Lebanon Situation Update

The Lebanese Army counteroffensive against the Druze and Muslim militias to reestablish government control of West Beirut is continuing. According to press and Embassy reports, fighting is heavy in several sectors of West Beirut.

- The Army announced that sources of fire will be dealt with severely. A total curfew has been imposed, and the Army has threatened to shoot violators on sight.
- US Embassy Beirut reports that, as of 1000 local, the initiative and momentum in the western half of the city had shifted from the militias to the Lebanese Army. The situation, however, remains fluid. [REDACTED]

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As of 1200 local, most US Embassy personnel were besieged in West Beirut. Shells were impacting in very close proximity to the Embassy, the Duraford Building, and the Cadmos Hotel.

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- Between 1230 and 1346 local, Embassy personnel were forced to close down their communication center. The center reopened, however, following a Lebanese Army sweep of the area. [REDACTED]

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The US Marine positions south of the city come under fire periodically. No additional Marine casualties were reported today.

- The French, British, and Italian contingents of the Multinational Force have also been subjected to small arms and mortar fire, causing some light casualties. [REDACTED]

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Fighting also erupted in Tripoli this morning. Arranged ceasefires have not been observed. [REDACTED]

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President Gemayel today called for a national unity dialogue with Lebanon's key confessional leaders.

- As of 1230 EDT, there has been no direct response to Amin's call.
- The Army counteroffensive has further alienated Shia Amal leader Nabih Barri and Druze leader Walid Junblatt.
- A dialogue without these two leaders would be meaningless. [REDACTED]

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FYI: The US Carrier Task Force today shelled suspected Druze artillery positions east of Beirut. It also transferred 500,000 rounds of ammunition to the Lebanese Army through the port of Juniyah. [REDACTED]

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**SSG Meeting**

**Lebanon**

**31 August 1983**

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-- Embassy Sitrep: 0830 Local, 31 August

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-- PSP Claim that Lebanese Forces Shelled Marines

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## MEETING INFORMATION

ES/MI #360

31 August 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

SUBJECT : Meetings

SSG

Type of Meeting : \_\_\_\_\_

Date : Wednesday, 31 August 83

Time : 11:00

Place : Situation Room

Chaired By : Vice President

Principal Only? : Plus One

Subject/Agenda : Lebanon

\_\_\_\_\_

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When to Expect Papers : None

Time Info Received : Per Elise, NSC, 0830 a.m.

10:30

## Distribution:

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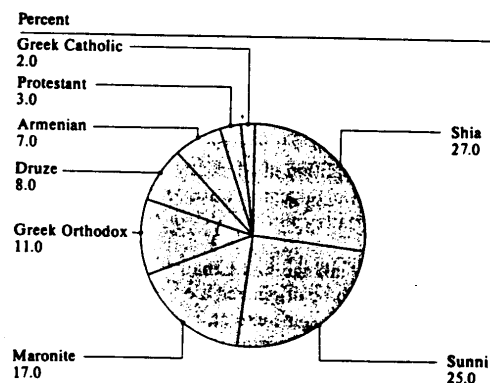
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Confessional Groups in Lebanon

Religion	Most recent (1981) Population Estimate	Percent of Population	Principal Leaders
<u>Arab Muslims</u>	1,150,000	52%	
Sunni	550,000	25	Saib Salam Rashid Karami PM Shafiq Wassan
Shia	600,000	27	Ibrahim Qulaylat Nabih Barri Kamal al-Assad
<u>Arab Christians</u>	750,000	33%	
Maronite	390,000	17	Pierre Gemayel Amin Gemayel Sulayman Franjiyah Camille Shamun Raymond Edde
Greek Orthodox	240,000	11	
Greek Catholic (Melkite)	52,000	2	
Protestant	68,000	3	
<u>Druze</u>	190,000	8%	Walid Junblatt
<u>Non-Arabs</u>	151,000	7%	
Armenian Orthodox/ Catholic Jewish	150,000 1,000		
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,241,000</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Lebanese Politico-Religious Groups\*



\*Excludes 400,000 Palestinians resident in Lebanon.

Lebanese Approved For Release 2007/10/01 : CIA-RDP85M00363R000200360001-4

Arab Muslim	333,165
Sunni	178,130
Shia	155,035
Arab Christian	364,754
Maronite	227,880
Greek Orthodox	77,312
Greek Catholic	46,709
Protestants	12,853
Druze	53,334
Non-Arab	41,973
Armenians	31,588
Jewish	3,588
Others	6,393
Residents in Lebanon	793,226
Lebanese Expatriates	254,387
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,047,613</b>

At the time of independence in 1943, Lebanese leaders formulated a National Pact to guarantee the sectarian rights within the diverse population of Lebanon. An unwritten agreement, the Pact allocates political and administrative offices equitably among the recognized confessional groups according to the percentage of each in the total Lebanese population. Using the 1932 census as a base (none has been taken since then), the Presidency traditionally goes to a Maronite Christian, the prime ministership to a Sunni Muslim and the presidency of the Chamber of Deputies to a Shia Muslim. The 99 seats of the Chamber are also allocated proportionately among the religious communities.